

The Idiot's Guide to

Surviving Kunsan



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Please send updates to 8fss.fsfr@kunsan.af.mil

The Idiot's Guide to Surviving Kunsan has been around for many years in many versions. This consolidated guide draws on the original document with gratitude for whoever started this tradition. This version is the result of a coordinated effort led by the Integrated Delivery System (IDS) which is a collaboration of base agencies.

We hope this guide provides you help in deciding what to bring to Kunsan, how to spend your time off and how to make the most out of what will be one of your most challenging yet rewarding years in the Air Force.

Is there anything else you would like to see in the guide? Or corrections and updates? Send that information to 8ff.fsfr@kunsan.af.mil and it will be incorporated into the next version.

Table of Contents

About Kunsan AB.....	4
What Should I Bring to Korea?	5
Getting Here.....	8
First Days at Kunsan.....	10
The Dorms	11
I Didn't Know Kunsan Had That!	18
What to Expect in the Commissary	20
Taking Care of Yourself	21
Gunsan City & Other Local Places	22
Local Bus Route to Gunsan City	23
How to Get to Seoul.....	25
When in Seoul...Food.....	27
Shopping at Osan:	30
Driving to Osan.....	32
Driving directions to Yongsan.....	33
Getting Around Kunsan in a Taxi.....	35
Websites.....	36
Phone Numbers.....	37

Kunsan is not a normal assignment, but it's not a deployment either. Most of the time, it's easier if you think about it like a deployment but with civilian clothing. This perspective will help you figure out what to bring and will help you get through some of the tougher times!

About Kunsan AB



Mission Statement of the 8th Fighter Wing

DEFEND THE BASE

ACCEPT FOLLOW-ON FORCES

TAKE THE FIGHT NORTH

Kunsan Air Base is home to the 8th Fighter Wing which is known as the “Wolf Pack”, a nickname given during the command of Colonel Robin Olds back in 1966. It is one of two major Air Force installations operated by the United States in Korea. Kunsan Air Base is located on the west coast of the South Korean peninsula bordered by the Yellow Sea.

Gunsan City is the host city for Kunsan Air Base. “Kunsan” and “Gunsan” are spelled exactly the same in Korean: . Gunsan City is pronounced Gunsan-si and is spelled . If you search “Kunsan” on the internet, you usually find information about the base, and if you search “Gunsan”, you usually get information about the host city.

What Should I Bring to Korea?

Here are some recommended items you might want to bring. Of course, what you bring will be influenced by the kind of dorm you'll be living in (see *Dorms Section*). The key thing to remember is that you DON'T need everything you own because you will only be here a year. Your shipped goods can take up to two months to arrive depending on when TMO picked them up. You may want to mail some "comfort items" ahead of time. Some suggestions are made below. Postal Service can take up to two weeks.

- **Bedding** – sheets, blanket, pillows because the selection at the BX is very limited.
(Recommend mailing these ahead)
- **Mattress pad.** In the older dorms, the beds are also pretty old. In the new dorms, the mattresses are pretty new, but they're also pretty firm. Either way, you may want some sort of padding. You can order one on-line and have it waiting in the Post Office when you get here, or ship it in your house-hold goods shipment. The BX carries one type.
- **Clothing**
 - Uniforms – In your luggage you'll want to have at least one set of Blues, ABU's and, PT Gear. Pack appropriate seasonal gear (ex: cold weather gear for winter/raingear for spring), in particular if you work flight line/outside. You don't want to freeze while you wait for your household goods to arrive.
 - Civilian Cloths – Koreans are smaller in build/size than Americans so if you have a particular brand/style you want to stock up and bring it with you. Make sure to bring a regular winter coat/gloves/hat. It gets very cold and windy in the winter.
 - Shoes – their shoes are small and what is carried in the BX is limited. If you are a runner it is recommended to bring an extra pair or 2 with you.

All dorms have small closets/dressers so space is minimal. Bring the items you really need, not everything you own. Most of the time is spent in uniform and off duty functions are usually pretty casual.

- **Cooking Stuff**
 - JNCO/Amn: You will not receive BAS as you have full access to the base DFAC. You do have a kitchen available to you either in your quad or dayroom. You may want to consider bringing some basic supplies if you like to cook. See specific details on what kind below in SNCO/Officer section.
 - SNCOs/CGOs: You have a kitchen (size is dorm dependent) but you'll want the basics to be able to cook/eat. The ovens are electric, so shiny pans work better than dark pans. Most are kitchenette size – smaller than stateside ovens, but still big enough for a basic cookie sheet or 9 x 12 inch pan. Most of the ovens run anywhere from 50 to 100 degrees hot, so you'll want an oven thermometer if you'll be using the oven a lot. Storage is minimal so keep that in mind.
SNCO/Officers may want to consider mailing some stuff ahead.

- Kitchen appliances: All quads/rooms are pre-furnished with microwaves. If you use one now you'll want to bring a coffee maker, blender, Cuisinart, and stand mixers.
SNCO/Officers may want to consider mailing ahead some stuff ahead.
- Cheapie bowls, plates, cups and silverware. You need stuff to eat on and with.
SNCO/Officers may want to consider mailing ahead some stuff ahead.
- Television and DVD player. You can get them in the BX, but if you already own one, might as well bring it. Basic cable is free and gives you 10 channels of AFN and some Korean channels. AFN (Armed Forces Network) is not ABC, CBS, NBC, ESPN, etc. AFN which carries certain shows from back home at unpredictable times. You can go to www.afnkorea.net to see the program schedule.
- Gaming system if you're a gamer. The BX carries a decent supply of X-box, Play station and Wii supplies.
- Your computer (desktop or laptop) and maybe a printer. You can get internet access set-up in your room for a monthly fee. If you bring a laptop, WIFI is available at several places across the base.
- A webcam (or you can buy one here). Skype (or a similar program) is a great way to keep in touch with folks back home. You can also use Skype as a phone system to call home for a small monthly fee.
- Magic Jack – a lot of folks use Magic Jack to call back home. Magic Jack plugs right into your computer/wall and gives you a stateside phone number that people can call you on. It requires a monthly fee, but it's worth looking into. You can use Magic Jack anywhere in the world, but it has to be purchased stateside.
- A good digital camera. There are so many great, and often surreal, things to take pictures of here. If your family and friends have never been to Asia, you'll be able to baffle them with Asian pictures. Contrary to popular belief, it's no cheaper to buy electronics in Korea than it would have been in the States.
- Stuff to hang on the walls. This includes a wall clock, pictures, posters, etc. Keep them light because you can't put nails in the walls, and will have to use sticky hooks to hang them. Bring TONS of pictures of people back home. A calendar is also a good idea because they're nearly impossible to find here.
- Mini-Fridge. Some individuals in the quad style dorms recommend bringing a mini-fridge for your room so you don't have to share the refrigerator. These can be bought here.
- Christmas lights or other decorations to liven up your dorm.

- Pull-up bar or similar equipment. While we have a very nice and well equipped gym, if you like exercising in your dorm room, bring your own gear. The selection in the BX is very, very limited.
- Sports equipment. There are lots of intramural sports here, so bring your own gear if you have it, such as golf clubs, softball gear, soccer gear, bowling ball, bowling shoes, tennis racquet, racquetball racquet, etc. You can checkout tennis, racquetball, wall climbing and weightlifting items free of charge at the Base Gym. You can rent other gear from Outdoor Recreation such as skis, snowboards, etc.
- Bike & Helmet – since you can't drive this is the best alternative, bring a bike if you have one. If you ride your bike in uniform or during the hours of darkness you **MUST** wear a reflective VEST and lights on front and back of bicycle.
- Newly married? Bring a copy of your marriage certificate. If you've been able to get your spouse put in the system before you come, great! But you could end up needing it for orders to your next assignment.

What NOT to bring

- Don't bring **ALL** your stuff. Think of this like a one-year deployment where you have some freedom. This will help you not to bring too much.
- Don't bring furniture. There's no need because the dorms are all fully furnished.
- Don't bring your entire closet of clothes. The closets are small and you'll be wearing your uniform most of the time.
- You shouldn't need any small appliances or cleaning supplies (ex: microwaves/vacuums) these are provided for you in your dorms.

Getting Here

PATRIOT EXPRESS

Most folks coming to Kunsan will come on the Rotator at Osan, also known as the Patriot Express (PE). The PE is a regular commercial plane that is contracted just for transporting military personnel and their families. You can find out more info about the PE via <http://www.usfk.mil/usfk/hot-topic.patriot.express.470>

Unless you travel internationally a lot, this will be one of the longest trips in your life. Everyone has different methods of surviving long plane rides. Plan ahead! Some people get an aisle seat so they can get up over and over during the flight. Others take a window so they have something to lean against and sleep most of the way. Some people bring lots of snacks for the flight. Others bring video games, movie players, or books. The point is, plan ahead for a long flight. A small pillow, ear plugs and night masks can help you sleep on the flight.

COMMERCIAL

If you're lucky enough to be able to take a commercial flight, you'll fly into Incheon International Airport (ICN) in Seoul. Travel times from the West Coast are around 14 hours on a direct flight. Once you get into Seoul, you have to work your way to Kunsan. Here's how to do it (thanks to http://www.howleronline.com/Welcome_Airport.html)

ICN is a very large airport but relatively easy to get around. Most of the information is written in English and Korean.

After arriving at ICN and claiming your bags, you will go through Immigrations and then Customs. Present a copy of your these documents to the Immigration agent:

- Orders
- Military ID
- Arrival card (provided to you on the plane)

You have two options for getting to Kunsan: military bus or civilian bus. Kunsan is a 3-hour drive from the airport, so don't take a taxi...that would cost between \$500 and \$700.

To take the Military Bus Service, also called "Wolf Pack Wheels," go to the USO Counter at Gate 14 (DSN 315-723-8621 or Commercial 011-82-2-7913-8621) Wolf Pack Wheels travels from the Airport to Osan Air Base and then to Kunsan AB. Travel time is about 2 hours to Osan and then another 2.5 hours to Kunsan AB. The cost is \$45 and is completely reimbursable.

The last military bus departs Incheon at 2230. If you will be arriving close to this time be sure to let the ITT Office at Osan know so they will wait for you. You can contact them through their web page: <http://www.51services.com/itt.htm>. If you are taking the bus to Osan, you will also need to spend the night at Osan and then take a morning Wolf Pack Wheels bus to Kunsan AB.

The lodging at Osan is the Turumi Lodge. You can make reservations by calling them at DSN 315-784-1844 or commercial at 011-82-31-661-1844 or by e-mail at turumi.lodge@osan.af.mil.

To take the civilian bus, go the ticket booth outside of the airport in front of Gate 9C. The cost is 25,800 won, and you can pay in won or with a credit card. The trip will be about 3 ½ hours, with a rest-stop halfway through. The bus will make several stops along the way. The last stop is Gunsan City. You will have to take a taxi to get to base or have your sponsor meet you at the bus terminal. There are taxis outside the bus terminal, but only the AAFES taxis can take you onto the base. You can either call an AAFES taxi at 010-2631-2172 or take another taxi to the main gate and get an AAFES taxi at the gate for the last couple miles to billeting.

First Days at Kunsan

The first couple of days at Kunsan will be surreal. You'll be totally jet-lagged while at the same time having to in-process. Everyone here says you have to hit the ground running.

The base is small, which you'll quickly discover. Anyone TSgt and below is barred from driving a POV however you can still get nearly any place on base in 10 minutes or less by foot. You'll also see lots of AAFES cabs.

The dorms are a 10 minute or so walk from the CAC, BX and Commissary.

If you have a car, it will take you less than 30 minutes to drive every single road on base.

The Dorms

CGO/SNCO's have what could be describe as "small one-bedroom apartments" in a dormitory style building. You will have a small... kitchen, living area, bedroom, and private bath.

Most E1-E6 live in "quad" style dorms. These dorms have a living area with basic furniture and kitchen then 4 bedrooms with private baths. Some NCO's are in older style dormitories that are designed with a "suitemate" set-up. Clarify with your sponsor about what dorm style you will be in. Most of all, the "personal" space you have could be considered to be a medium size bedroom or a college dorm room.

AMN dorms get inspected every month. NCO dorms get inspected every quarter.

All dormitories are equipped so you have access to refrigerator, microwave, and stove/oven.

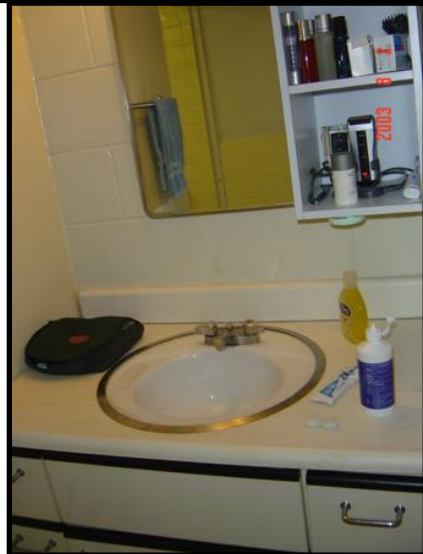
Your dorms are set-up with laundry rooms. The size and availability will depend on what dorm you live in. There is also a base coin laundry available for bulk items you may want to clean.

The next few pages will give you an idea of what the inside of your dorms look like.

CGO Maj/Capt Dorms (Think small 1 bedroom Apartment)



CGO Lt Dorms (Think “efficiency” Apartment)



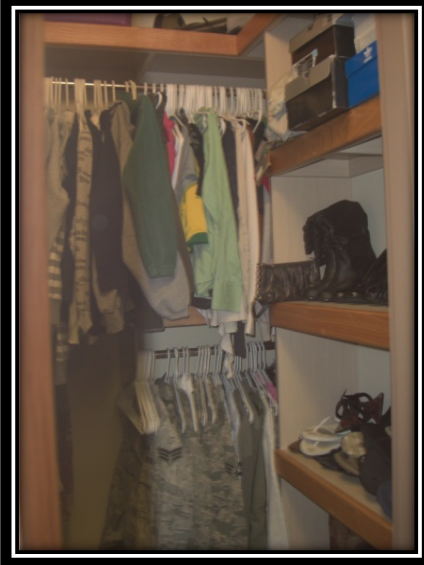
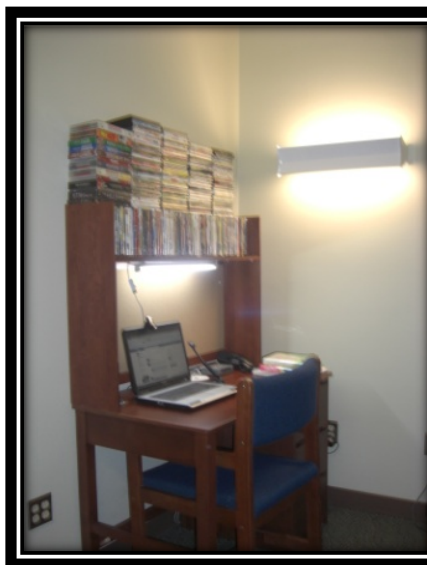
SNCO Dorms (Think small 1 bedroom Apartment)



NCO Dorms – Suitemate Style



NCO & AMN Dorms – Quad Design
This is the bedroom portion w/your private bathroom



NCO & AMN Dorms – Quad Design

This is the quad area portion w/the shared sitting area, kitchen, and storage closet



I Didn't Know Kunsan Had That!

You can easily go your whole tour without knowing all of the things that are available at Kunsan. Some are “obvious” but others are little gems you may not know exist.

The “Hidden Gems”

- **The Library: (Free Wi-Fi)** This is one best kept secrets on base and it's **FREE!** They have an impressive collection of DVD's (movies/ TV series) as well as an awesome selection of current book titles and array of music CDs. They also have over 30 computers with internet access and 4 are set up as private booths for Skype. If you need to print/scan/fax this is the place to go! Official use is free, personal use is a very small fee. . There is also a great travel section where you can get books on nearly any place you'd want to visit while you're in Asia. Finally, if you need a quite place to read, study, or surf the web it has a few private study areas and a nice reading room.
- **The SonLight Inn: (Free Wi-Fi)** This is a hangout area sponsored by the Chapel.
 - **Fun:** The Inn offers several rooms to hang out it. They have a Movie Room that has AMAZING leather couches with a big screen TV for watching movies as well as a Wii gaming unit. A “coffee lounge” with tables and comfortable couches. They have a ping pong room and 2 rooms for meeting/gathering/eating.
 - **Music:** The SonLight offers free piano lessons Tues/Thurs night each week.
 - **Coffee:** The Inn offers a free coffee bar usually open Fri & Sat evenings
 - **Food:** Most Fri nights you can eat a free home cooked meal. Free meals are also often offered after the various Sunday services.
- **The CAC: (Free Wi-Fi)** It's open 24 hours a day and is a great escape from your dorm.
 - **Food:** Serves an array of food/drink (including breakfast)
 - Offers free pool, darts, chess, fuse ball, ping pong, gaming area equipped with an Xbox and Play station, and music room with drums, piano, and guitar to use.
 - **Fun Stuff:** The CAC offers free events like bingo, chess & pool tourneys
 - **Library Annex** is also located here and has 13 internet capable computers with 2 being set-up for Skype usage. There is a small array of books and DVD's as well.
 - **Community Tours:** the CAC offers several local tours to travel destinations around Korea. This is a great way to fill your weekend and see the culture.
 - **Movie Rentals:** The CAC also offers has new releases and movies to rent.
 - **ITT:** The CAC is the home of ITT which offers excellent deals on traveling to other areas of Asia (China/Japan/Hawaii) or back to the states.
- **The Korean BX** is cool. You can find some great Korean foods for you to enjoy or to send back home for your family to try.
- **38th Korean Restaurant** has great Korean fare at a really good price so you don't have to go off base if you want to have traditional “Korean” food for lunch.

The “Obvious”

- **The Base Exchange**
 - **The food court** has Anthony’s Pizza, Popeye’s, Taco Bell, Burger King, Baskin Robins, and Starbucks (yes... that’s what I said, STARBUCKS!)
 - **Other Services** – Beauty/Barber Shop, Clothing Sales, Custom Tailor Shop, Custom Shoe Place, Optical Shop, GNC, Florist, Asian Inspired Clothing Store, Alternations, Asian Gift Store, and Art & Engraving shop.
 - **The Main shopping area:** take an average BX and cut it down to ¼... it’s really small which means your choices are very limited. Ex: Stateside you might have a choice of a dozen different running shoes, here you’ll only have 3 or 4, and that’s on a good day. In addition the amount in stock is going to be small.
- **The Club:** The “Loring Club” is an all ranks club with a ball/dining room that is an all ranks area and two separate areas designated as the Enlisted Lounge and the Officer Lounge. It also houses a room with slot machines. The dues are very reasonable and as a club member you will receive discounts on club events and free food on “First Fridays” which are themed nights sponsored by units to increase morale and have fun.
- **Outdoor Recreation:** Outdoor Rec offers an array of trips and events and is a fantastic place to rent sports and outdoor equipment of all kinds. They also have a paintball area right on base. There is a frame shop offers classes and is located in Outdoor Rec.
- **The Gym:** Excellent facility with an indoor track, climbing wall, racquetball court, various rooms with free weights, machines, treadmills, elliptical, stationary bikes, and more. There are exercise classes of all sorts plus a massage therapist for your sore muscles. Most of the classes are free but the massage will cost you a small fee.
- **The “LGDayComm” building:**
 - **LG UPlus** – this is where you activate your internet service. You can also obtain various telephone services to include a room phone or a cell phone.
 - **Pack N Wrap** –this is the only place on base to buy wrapping paper. They will also wrap things for you and package stuff so you can mail it.
 - **Bike Store** – you can purchase a limited selection of bikes and accessories. They will also service your bike if it needs repairs.
 - **Other Stuff** – The Airman’s Attic, a Korean Water Store for bottled water and this is the location of the Coin Laundry.
- **Outdoor Pool:** Only open in the summer
- **The Chapel:** On base you can find Catholic, Traditional, Gospel, Contemporary, and Latter Day Saints. There is an Earth Based Fellowship that meets at the SonLight and the Chapel provides information for Buddhist, Jewish, Islamic, and Orthodox faiths.
- **The Hooch:** A unique aspect of Kunsan is that many of the units have a “hooch” or unit bar. Hooches still exist on a lot of bases but only in the flying squadrons, Kunsan is the only base where you’ll find other units with hooches. It offers a place to hang out with your co-workers during off duty time. Each one is unique to the Squadron in size, décor and equipment.
- **The Commissary:** See the page dedicated to the Commissary

What to Expect in the Commissary

Our commissary has about 8 aisles and is exceptionally small. All things considered, you can find most of you're looking for; including a lot of basic foods that you could get back in the States, the only thing you're really going to miss is variety. (And you will miss it!) If you're attached to certain brands this is the year to become more flexible or... call back home and ask them to mail it!

The commissary is closed every Monday.

If you have an exercise coming up, start stocking your fridge at LEAST a week in advance. If you wait until right before the exercise, you'll feel like you're shopping in Russia with empty shelves and very long lines.

The produce section is smaller and more minimally stocked. If you like eating fruits and vegetables, get ready to eat a million apples and transition to frozen and canned fruits and veggies. The produce selection will vary by season but you can always count on apples.

One thing that's exceptionally cheap in Korea is bottled water. The water on base is technically drinkable but you can purchase both American and Korean brand bottled water here.

The meat selection at Kunsan's commissary is also a little intimidating. They sell Korean chicken, which looks and tastes a little different...but it's manageable. More than likely, you'll survive off frozen foods for a year because they're much fresher and more dependable. They commissary stocks all the types of meat you would commonly use but again... the amount kept on hand is small.

The commissary carries some Korean brand items that are considered popular by us Americans. You can find some unique drinks and foods that you won't find anywhere else. If you are planning a large event (Sq BBQ or personal BBQ) you can talk to the manager and pre-order what you need.

Taking Care of Yourself

What the HECK is wrong with my Skin?!?

If you've ever had what Americans so affectionately call "problem skin" you'll likely have it ten times worse in Korea.

Even the medical people on base seem to be baffled and it's referred to as an "environmental condition" that you may just have to deal with for the next year.

The weather here makes it even more difficult to control breakouts. In the summer, expect hot, muggy (very humid) and extremely polluted air. In the winter, expect exceptionally dry and cold air.

Lots of people order Proactive, which can be delivered to Korea. Don't forget to buy white towels before using anything with benzoyl peroxide, since it bleaches the color out of clothes, towels, and anything else close. Kunsan doesn't carry anything helpful for solving the breakout problem, except some Oxy10 and other really harsh stuff.

Some recommended breakout prevention products:

Clinique deep cleansing emergency mask (available at Osan)

Body Shop tea tree oil mask (in Jeonju Lotte Dept Store in basement or Seoul)

Body Shop blue corn mask

Neutrogena Healthy Skin anti-wrinkle anti-blemish cream (from the States)

Where did my favorite product go?!?

You'll be surprised at what you can find at Kunsan – most Pantene products, lots of variety for body washes, and a partial line of Bath & Body Works and Victoria's Secret soaps and lotions. Here's a trick – the BX and commissary carry different things. Look both places!

If you're picky, check at Osan, where the selection is huge compared to here. Same goes for Osan, the commissary carries different stuff than the BX.

If you're looking for department store items, you won't find it at Kunsan. You'll find a small selection at Osan. If you're partial to a brand of make-up, perfume, or cologne.... Buy it ahead of time and bring it or coordinate with a family member to send more when your low.

If you still can't find what you're looking for, there are still options. www.drugstore.com delivers to Korea, but charges you a \$5 convenience fee. Other sites such as ship here so just do your research before you order. Keep in mind if you "express" deliver that only gets it to the AP site faster (not from the US to here).

Gunsan City & Other Local Places

Grocery Shopping

Lotte Mart – this is the Korean version of the “super Walmart/Targe” except it’s built upward.

E-Mart Roadtrip – more like your standard grocery store as found in the states

Outdoor Fun

Korean’s are exceptional when it comes to being in shape. On your average Sat/Sunday afternoon you will see the whole family out walking and hiking. Some local spots are:

Eumpa Park – great hiking and cycling trails as well as some outdoor sites on a lake

Wolmyeong Park – great hiking and cycling trails as well as some great views of the city

Sea Wall/Port – a great bike ride and the opportunity to explore the indoor Korean fish market

The Movies

Gunsan City has an amazing Large Screen movie theater and 99% of the movies are shown in English with Korean subtitles.

Stuff from the States

Cold Stone

Baskin Robins

McDonalds

Popeye’s

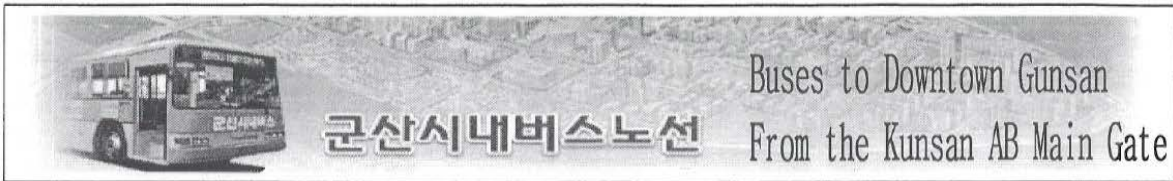
Outback

TGI Friday’s

“A-Town”

America Town, or the International Culture Village (ICV), is an area that was designed for “GI’s” to hang out. Nightlife offers various types of bars and during the day (mostly weekends) there are restaurants that, while still Korean, are geared with American taste buds in mind. You can also purchase cheap but current movies, Korean blankets, and your “designer” Jersey. If you ever wanted any kind of sports Jersey this is the place to get it made. When you arrive you’ll find that each squadron has a unique Jersey and these are worn A LOT (almost every Friday).

Local Bus Route to Gunsan City



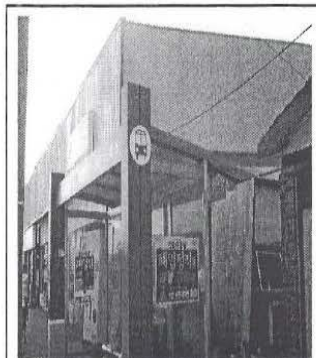
Bus schedule From Kunsan AB Main Gate	
#1	#19
0650	0725
0750	0825
0850	0925
0950	1025
1050	1125
1150	1225
1250	1325
1350	1425
1450	1525
1550	1625
1650	1725
1750	1825
1850	1925
1950	2025
2050	2125
2150	2225

Local Bus Destinations

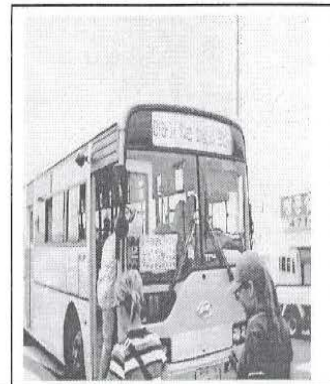
- #1 - Gunsan Airport, Kunsan AB main gate, A Town, Soryong-dong, Haemang-dong, Toseonjang, Open market, Bus Terminal, Lotte mart, Gunsan city hall, Train Station.
- #19 - Gunsan Airport, Kunsan AB main gate, Okgu-eup, Kunsan University, Eunpa Park, Goong Jeon Wedding Hall, Cultural Center, Gunsan Elementary School/Annex Telecom, Open market, Bus terminal, Gunsan train station.

NOTE: (Bus #19) on Sundays & Korean Holidays

- Buses traveling to downtown Gunsan city will run on "EVEN" hours; example 0625, 0825, ... 2025.
- Buses returning to Base will run on "ODD" hours.



Local bus shelter;
Just outside the main gate of Kunsan AB.



Local buses' color is orange or blue.

Bus fare is **1,100 Won**. Also, drivers cannot change large bills, for example, 5,000 Won or 10,000 Won.

Bus Etiquette: be prepared to get on and off quickly (bus drivers receive a heavy fine if they are behind schedule).

Bus riders frequently offer their seats to elderly people or hold their packages.

For buses with side entrances, you will enter from the front and exit from the side. Current fare: 1,100 Won.

Courtesy of A&FRF
Bldg. 755, Rm.127
Rev. 3 MAR 09

How to Get to Seoul

Seoul is definitely worth visiting! The Army Garrison Yongsan is right in the middle of Seoul, and the Dragon Hill Lodge is amazing. Itaewon is only a 10 minute walk from the Dragon Hill. More about that later.

You basically have three options for getting to Seoul: car, bus or train. Unless you're really comfortable driving in Korea, you probably don't want to drive in Seoul – the traffic is unreal.

Korean Express Train (KTX)

The Korean Express Train (KTX) station in Iksan. There are few ways to get to the Iksan station. If you have a car, or know someone that does, that's the easiest way. Get on Hwy 21 to Jeonju and follow signs for Iksan, taking the Hwy 23 exit. Then follow the signs for the train station. If you drive yourself to the Iksan Station, there is parking in front of the building. Save your train ticket because it will get you 30% off your parking...which is then \$7 a day.

You can also take a taxi to the Kunsan City train station and take the train from Kunsan to Iksan.

Go to the ticket counter and ask for “KTX Yongsan.” It should be about 27,000W. This example is one from Yongsan to Iksan, which is cheaper for some reason.

Right in the middle where it says “16” – that's your train car. You also have an assigned seat, in this case 14A. You're expected to sit in the seat you're assigned.

Travel time to Seoul is about 2 hours. There is a snack cart on the train, but unless you enjoy Korean snacks like dried squid, you might want to bring your own.



Managing the KTX is really easy and not enough Americans take advantage. Even though it's great, there are some limitations. Getting to Seoul is easy. Getting to Pusan is harder. There are two KTX rail lines but for some reason they never connect. One goes between Mokpo (the very southern tip of Korea) and Seoul. The second goes between Seoul and Pusan/Busan (which is on the east coast of Korea).

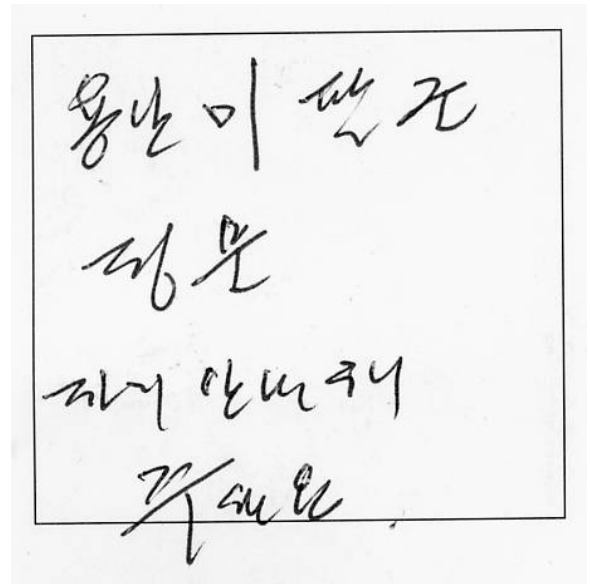
Both lines pass through Daejeon, but the two stations in that city are on opposite sides of the city. This makes taking the bullet train to Pusan (called Busan by the Koreans) difficult unless you're leaving from Seoul.

Yongsan Station:

When you arrive, Yongsan Station is worth exploring. You should see Dunkin Donuts as you leave the train. There's a Starbucks upon on the 6th floor. There is also a great movie theater, and lots of silly Korean shopping. In the very basement of the station is an enormous E-Mart. There are lots of restaurants in the station. Red Mango, which is next to Starbucks, has fantastic ice cream with weird Korean toppings (frosted flakes, for example).

Getting to Yongsan Garrison from Yongsan Station:

Korean cab drivers in Seoul often pretend not to speak English. Print out this card below. This will get you to the front gate at Yongsan Garrison (about a 25 minute walk from the station). You could always take the subway but a cab will be about 5,000W more convenience if you have luggage.



When in Seoul...Food

First things first. If you're craving good, non-Korean food, you have at least two incredible options in Seoul. If you want something more familiar, two recommended locations are in the Itaewon neighborhood, which is nearly right outside of the Yongsan gate.

If you're walking to Itaewon from Yongsan, walk out Gate 10 (main gate) and take a right. Walk up the street for about 5 minutes and you'll see a huge metal archway across the street on the left that says "Welcome to Itaewon"

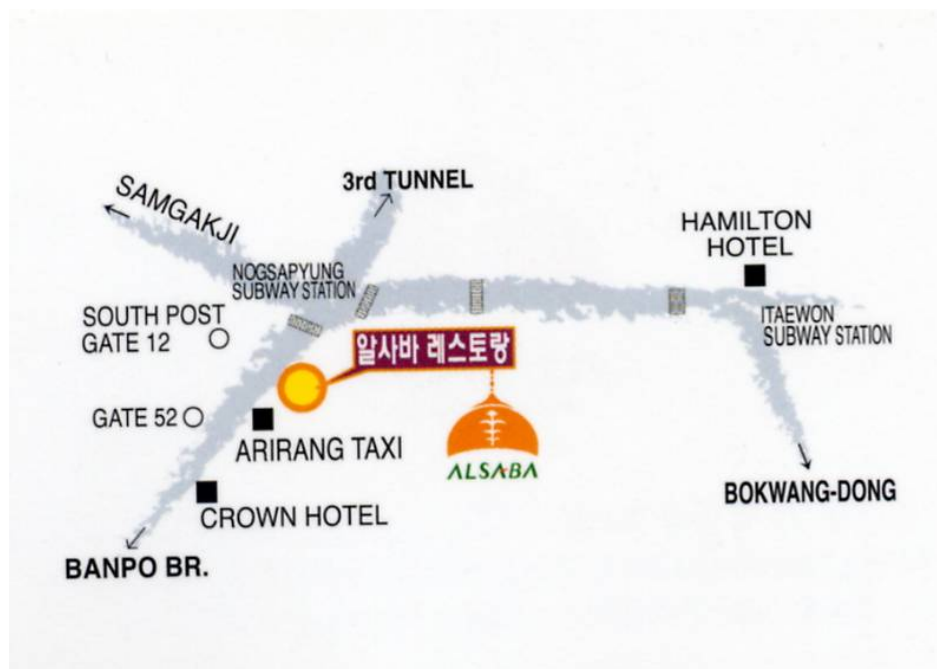
That's the main street, about a 10 minute walk from Dragon Hill, or a \$2 cab ride.

In Itaewon, you'll find another Starbucks Dunkin Donuts, and a great Thai restaurant. You'll have to walk down that main street (on the left side of the street) for about 10 minutes. You'll pass the Itaewon Hotel on your left – see the second side of the card for directions. It's very inexpensive. You can eat for about 10,000 – 15,000W.



If you're more in the mood for Indian, there is an amazing place also in Itaewon. To get here from base, you'll walk out the main gate, cross the street, and start walking toward Itaewon. Pass Itaewon street (which is probably unnamed), and walk another block or so. Alsaba is on left side of the road before you get to the Crown Hotel. The big yellow dot is the restaurant location.

Here's the card for that one. The food is incredible. It's a little more expensive (15,000 – 20,000W but WELL worth it.) Try the nam. We always order at least two different kinds of nam.



Insadong

You'll find lots of westerners here but very few of them are American. To get here taking a cab from base is recommended. It may cost \$8 or so depending on traffic, but worth the convenience.

There's one main street, with another Starbucks. This is the neatest Starbucks in Seoul because it's the only one with the Starbucks sign in Hangul. See below:



It's way down the main road on the left hand side.

A neat store is on the left hand side of the road almost all the way to the end. At the very end of the road is a big stage where there are often festivals. The last store on the left before the festival site has the world's coolest contraption. Here you can have stamps made for as little as 10,000W (which includes the special ink you'll need.) Walk in the main door and go left. You'll see the stamp ladies. You can get your name (or any other name) in English and Hangul on a stamp.

Also on that main road are all kinds of great paper stores where you can buy traditional Korean kites, paper boxes, and the neatest craft stuff you've ever seen. The more you dig, the neater things you'll find. Look down each of the side streets because that's where the real treasures hide. And a word to the wise – if you find something you love BUY IT right then. If you go back looking for it later it won't be there.

No great food has been recommended in Insadong, but the experience is so incredible that you won't miss it. There are snack shops, and tons of traditional Korean places. There's also a Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf on the same side of the road as Starbucks, just an alley or two past the very large arts and shopping complex. That place is expensive (5,000W for a cup of tea) but it's gorgeous, and if you go out on the roof you have a killer view!

Shopping at Osan:

Getting there:

Two options for getting there. If you're feeling social and there will be at least two people traveling together, consider driving. The tolls are 9,000W each way, and it will take a little over a full tank of gas to get there and back in the Hyundai. Driving takes anywhere from 2 – 3 hours depending on traffic.

Otherwise, Wolf Pack Wheels is cheaper at \$40 for a roundtrip. Buy your tickets in advance, the bus leaves from the Kunsan CAC and stops at a Korean rest area on the way there. You will be deposited across the street from the Osan BX in about 2 ½ - 3 hours.

Almost every shop will let you pay either American or Korean.

Purses, Purses and More Purses:

There are many purse shops outside the gates of Osan but you need to make sure you're getting a good product so here are quality tips. If you're buying Coach bags make sure the C logos do not connect at both the top and bottom of the C. If they connect in both places, the bag is a cheap knock off and you should not pay more than \$10 or so. If you're buying Louis Vuitton, ensure there is both an L and a V in the logo (no kidding, lots of places swap letters!) Next, make sure the L and V are only touching in one place. If you bring pictures of what you want they'll help you find them.

Bookbags, Bag Tags and Luggage:

Royal Bag – You can get here by walking out the main gate and heading toward the hat shop (which you'll see slightly to the right as you exit the gate.) Inside Royal Bag, you'll lots of great stuff, first, bag tags. They cost no more than about \$5, and if you have a specific logo in mind, print it and bring it with you. They'll make, personalized luggage, gym bags, book bags, helmet bags, notebook covers, snowboard bags. You name it.

Packing/Boxing

Your only stop: outside Royal Bag – walk out the side door at Royal Bag and on the corner there will be two packers. Recommend the lady. She'll pack anything for you in about 2 minutes. It'll cost \$2 – 4. Another trick: MPS to yourself! Pack a box, address it to yourself, and MPS it from the post office just inside the main gate on the right side. (Open 1000 – 1600 on Saturdays). Unless you drove to Osan, this is the only feasible way to deliver your goodies.

Custom Tailors:

Pacific Tailor: To get there from the main gate, you'll walk toward Fish to Go (look right when you exit the base and get to the main street.) It's right behind Fish to Go (which you've already passed!) They can make almost anything, as an example they were given a picture from a JCrew catalog and they made the coat in less than a week for about \$100. Everything has your name sewn inside, which is a nice touch. Johnny the store owner is a very nice man, and the quality of their work is fantastic.

All Things Gortex:

AJ's Gortex: To get there, walk down the main shopping street, and the store is on the right hand side about a block or two past Mr. Lim's. One of the greatest Korea tricks is having a fleece liner put inside your AF-issue gortex jacket.

Driving to Osan

1. Exit out the main gate and take the 26 towards A Town. Get on Highway 21 towards Jeonju and follow the signs to Expressway 15.

Gunsan actually has two Expressway 15 entrances.

2.a. If you follow the first signs on Highway 21 for Expressway 15, you'll take Highway 29 to Highway 27 to Expressway 15. It's well marked, so there's no problem going this way.

2.b If you don't take the first exit on Highway 21 for Expressway 15, you'll have another chance after another 3-4 kilometers. Again, this way is well marked, but the turns come a little quicker so you need to pay close attention.

Regardless of which way you go, you'll go through a toll gate. DO NOT go through the lane that is painted blue - that is for "Hi Pass" (quick-pass) holders only. Take any of the other lanes with a green arrow above it and take your toll ticket from the machine. Get on the Expressway 15 headed north towards Seoul.

3. At this point, you have two choices about how to get to Osan.

3.a. Follow Expressway 15 for about 5 minutes and then take the Expressway 151 north towards Gongju. You'll stay on the Expressway 151 for about 40 minutes and then come to Expressway 30. Stay in the right lane and get on the Expressway 30 headed east. Stay in the right lane because you'll take the very next exit for Expressway 25 north (there are signs for Expressway 1 at this point - follow them). Stay on Expressway 25 for another half hour and then get on Expressway 1 headed towards Seoul. There's an extra tollgate on Expressway 25 - pay the toll and the attendant will give you another toll ticket along with your change.

3.b. Follow Expressway 15 for about an hour and take exit 28 for Expressway 40 towards Anseong. Stay on Expressway 40 for about half an hour and get on Expressway 1 headed towards Seoul.

4. Take exit 42 for Osan and go through the toll gate. The total toll regardless of which way you go will be under 10,000 won. The total tolls for option 3.a. are 9,300 won going to Osan, and 9,700 won coming back to Kunsan.

5. After the toll gate, go to the second light (the first one is at the underpass right out of the toll gate). Turn left at the second light onto Highway 1. Stay on Highway 1 for 3-4 kilometers and there will be a sign for Osan AB. Take that right, go over the bridge, and then veer left after the light. The Osan "Beta" Gate will be on your right after another kilometer.

To return to Kunsan, just retrace your steps. If you take the 25 to 30 to 151 route, the only trick is to take the second exit for the 30 headed for Danjin, not the first.

Driving directions to Yongsan

1. Follow the directions to Osan, and keep following Expressway 1 into Seoul. You will go through a toll booth as you get closer to Seoul.
2. Stay on Expressway 1 and you will begin to see signs for Highway 88 to the Olympic Expressway and Gimpo Airport. Take the exit for Highway 88. The exit curves around and turns into a one-lane ramp. When you merge with the next street, get over to the far left lane and follow the signs for Highway 31 and "Banpogyo Br". You will exit left, and come around to a traffic light where you will turn right onto the Banpogyo Bridge.
3. Cross the bridge and get into the middle right lane. Then merge to the left as you get close to the second traffic light. At the second traffic light, turn left to the Yongson South Post gate. (If you're driving a GOV, you would turn right at this light to get to the GOV fuel pumps).

Useful Korean Phrases

(Thanks to <http://www.howleronline.com/Files/Welcome/TravelingExpressions.pdf>)

At Incheon International Airport

Can you show me where the USO counter is? (Note: The USO Counter is at Gate 14.)

유에스오 카운터가 어디인지 알려주시겠습니까? (유에스오 카운터는 14번 게이트입니다.)

Can you show me where the City Bus is? (Note: the City Bus departs Outside at Gate 9.)

시내버스 타는곳 좀 알려주시겠습니까? (시내버스는 바깥쪽 9번 게이트에서 출발합니다.)

Can you show me where I can do a currency exchange?

어디에서 환전 (미국돈을 우리나라 돈으로 바꿀려면) 할 수 있는지 알려주시겠습니까?

At the Bus Terminal

Can you show me where to purchase a ticket for Gunsan? (Note: the City Bus departs Outside at Gate 9.)

군산가는 고속버스 표를 어디서 사는지 알려 주시겠습니까?
(시내버스는 바깥쪽 9번 게이트에서 출발합니다.)

I'd like to purchase a ticket for Gunsan.

군산 가는 표 한장 주세요.

Can you show me where to wait for the bus to Gunsan?

군산 가는 버스를 어디에서 기다려야 하나요?

Can you tell me when I arrive at Gunsan Air Base? (for the bus driver)

기사님, 제가 군산 미공군 비행장에 도착하면 알려주시겠습니까?

Taxi

Can you take me to Gunsan Air Base?

군산 미공군 비행장 으로 가주시겠습니까?

Getting Around Kunsan in a Taxi

Helpful Traveling Expressions

Can you take me to ...?

Bus Terminal

서울가는 고속버스 터미널로 가주세요.

Bus Terminal (Intercity)

시외 버스 터미널로 가주세요.

E Mart?

이마트로 가주세요.

Eunpa Park?

은파 유원지로 가주세요.

Ferry Terminal?

도선장 여객 터미널로 가주세요.

Gunsan Airport?

군산 공항으로 가주세요.

Gunsan Stadium?

군산 월명 체육관으로 가주세요.

Gunsan Tourist Hotel?

군산 관광 호텔로 가주세요.

Kunsan Air Base?

군산 미공군 비행장으로 가주세요.

Lotte Cinema Movie Theater?

롯데시네마 극장으로 가주세요.

Lotte Mart?

롯데 마트로 가주세요.

Train Station?

기차역으로 가주세요.

Valentines Pizza?

발렌타인 피자로 가주세요.

Wolmyeong Park?

월명공원으로 가주세요.

Yondeong Street?

영동거리로 가주세요.

Websites

www.kunsan.af.mil/

The official homepage of Kunsan AB

www.howleronline.com/

This is the 8 FSS home page and has great information about on-base facilities, tours, getting around, and a lot more.

Phone Numbers

KUNSAN DSN 782-#### Comm: 063-470-####
Commercial from CONUS: 011-82-63-470-####

AAFES TAXI	x4318
AMC Passenger Terminal	x4666
Anthony's Pizza	x4414
Barber Shop	x4328
Beauty Shop	x4329
Billeting	x4604
Chapel	x4300
Command Post	x6000
Dental Clinic	x4943
Education Office	x5148
HAWC	x5595
Immunizations	x5261
ITT (Leisure Travel)	x5213
Medical Appointments	x7373
Main Gate	x4473

OSAN DSN 784-#### Comm: 031-661-####
Commercial from CONUS: 011-82-31-661-####

Turumi Lodge x1844
e-mail: turumi.lodge@osan.af.mil

Osan ITT x4254

INCHEON AIRPORT

USO DSN: 723-8621 Comm: 011-82-2-7913-8621